

Sitzberger called the regular meeting of the Land & Water Conservation Committee to order at 9:00 a.m., on February 1, 2013 in the Lower Level Conference Room #2, at the Vilas County Courthouse, Eagle River, Wisconsin.

Present:

The following persons were present: County Board members; Ralph Sitzberger, Dennis Nielsen, Kathleen Rushlow, Lorin Johnson; and others Martha Milanowski, Carolyn Scholl, Mariquita Sheehan, Ted Ritter. Rollie Alger (VCLRA), Mike Schultz (Big Sand Lake Association). At 10:30a.m. joined by Janna Kahl.

The following County Board member(s) was excused: Mary Kim Black

The following County Board member(s) was absent:

Media present: Ken Anderson

Approve Agenda: Motion made by Rushlow, second by Nielsen, to approve the agenda in any order at the chairman's discretion. Motion carried, all voting aye.

Approve Minutes: Motion by Rushlow, second by Nielsen to approve the minutes from January 4, 2013 of this committee. Motion carried, all voting aye.

Big Sand Lake District Petition:

Resolution Re: Denial of Big Sand Lake District Petition: A motion, made by Rushlow, and seconded by Johnson, to forward the Resolution of Denial of the Big Sand Lake District Petition and the Formal Order, to the county board. Milanowski recommended that the approved Jan. 3rd District Petition Hearing Minutes be sent to the county board along with the resolution. **The vote: Ayes - 3; Nays -1. Motion carried.**

Potential County Policy: In response to a letter from Rollie Alger (re: the Big Sand Lake District Petition), Scholl suggests the committee develop a formal process or set of guidelines to address future hearings. **A motion to have Scholl, Milanowski, and Johnson develop guidelines for District Petition meetings for committee review, was made by Rushlow and seconded by Johnson. Motion carried, all voting aye.**

Milanowski and Media left at 9:30 a.m.

Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program: –

Irish had no report and did not attend. Scholl will prepare 2012 reimbursement claim for the March meeting.

Lake Organizations, ER Unified Lakes Commission (ULERCLC) & Vilas County Lakes and Rivers Association (VCLRA):

VCLRA – Alger stated that the VCLRA newsletter is now out and that all county board supervisors should have received a copy. He also mentioned that the “Celebrating Lakes Day” will be on June 14, 2013 at the Conserve School in Land O’Lakes and the 35th Annual Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Convention will be April 9-11, 2013 in Green Bay.

AIS Management – Future of County Program:

Johnson and Ritter reported that they met to discuss AIS management alternatives and will continue to look for alternatives to chemical treatments.

Conservation Projects – Update: –

Sheehan sent letters to 17 current applicants of the Cost Share Program to explain the new Department Cost Share Tier Policy and Technical Services Fee Policy. She is trying to determine how many participants wish to continue with the program under the new policies. So far the feedback has been of more interest, or deferment to 2014, than withdrawal from the program. She also shared the new information with contractors that usually work on shoreland restoration projects, as they are a common outlet to landowners.

DATCP Business –

Scholl shared information on the proposed ATCP 50 revision. The major take home is that counties that do not have a large agricultural base will be negatively affected by the changes. Rushlow asked to see what proposed changes to ATCP 50 already appear in the 2014 proposed budget. Scholl will be part of the discussion at the WLWCA BOD meeting. The period for comments about the economic impact of the proposed changes closes February 26.

Agent reports: UWEX, FSA, LWCD, NRCS, NCLWCA, Lumberjack RC&D –

LWCD: Scholl, Ritter, and Sheehan distributed and discussed their written reports (on file in the LWCD office). Scholl submitted an AIS grant proposal to help cover the cost of the AIS position in the department. She will be preparing the reimbursements for the 2012 Wildlife Damage Abatement program and the second half of 2012 DATCP grant. She just attended the WLWCA Training Summit in Madison to develop low cost, productive ways to provide training for natural resource professionals. Ritter announced the WHIP Annual Partners meeting Feb. 26th at Trees for Tomorrow. He also stated that Lumberjack RC&D funded a 3-4 month LTE position, housed in Oneida County, to develop a Draft ROW invasive Species Management Plan. WISDOT have become MOU partners with WHIP. Of the new WI DNR streamlined CBCW grant awards, organizations in Vilas County received 41% of the available funds (\$62,565). Ritter has also nominated the WI DNR employees who developed the streamlining of the program for a Lake Stewardship Award. Sheehan announced that Stacy Dehne won the WLWCA Friend of Conservation Award. She met with Alger and Sandy Gillum to develop a timeline for completion of the Shoreland Restoration Handbook, and will be writing the grant proposal for the “good wood plus project” to fund the lakes part of the Conservation Specialist position. Lumberjack, RC&D: Nielsen shared that a number of grants were awarded including the program Ritter shared. **The Committee requested a copy of the direct phone numbers of courthouse staff.**

Out-of-county travel:

A motion by Rushlow, second by Nielsen to approve the following out of county travel: Sitzberger and Scholl on February 22 to NCLWCA meeting in Merrill. Scholl, February 6th to Park Falls for a Conservation Camp Planning Meeting, and February 12th to Stevens Point for a WLWCA BOD meeting. Ritter, on February 11 to Stevens Point for an AIS Decontamination Policy Team meeting. Motion carried, all voting aye.

Monthly Budget Review:

An update of the budget was presented to the committee along with the statement of the bills paid. **Motion by Rushlow, second by Johnson, to approve the review of the budget update. Motion carried.**

Kahl joins meeting, 10:25am.

Committee goes into closed session:

A motion by Johnson, seconded by Nielsen, to go into closed session, pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 19.85(1)(c), for the purpose of considering employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility (Department Head performance evaluation). Motion carried. 10:30am.

Adjournment of closed session and return to open session:

A motion by Johnson, seconded by Nielsen, to Adjourn the closed session and return to open session. Motion carried. 12:00pm

Letters and Communications:

The following items are on file in the LWCD office: NRCS Report to the Land Conservation Committees, Jan, 2013; Forestry Notes, January 2013; Northwoods Land Trust, Winter 2012-13; UW-Water Resources Institute, 2013 annual meeting announcement.

Future Meeting Dates/Items:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Friday March 1, 2013 in the Vilas County Courthouse, 330 Court St., Eagle River, WI 54521.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned by Sitzberger at 12:10 a.m.

Minutes reflect the recorder's notations and are subject to approval by the appropriate board or committee.

Respectfully submitted by: *Quita Sheehan*